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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,252	07/08/2003	Akiyama Masaya	P-1354	6024
35741	7590	04/10/2006		
KUO-HSIUNG CHIU 13F., NO.23, JIUN-HO STREET, PEITUN DISTRICT TAICHUNG, 406 TAIWAN				
EXAMINER SPRIGG, SEAN M				
ART UNIT 3712		PAPER NUMBER		

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/614,252	Applicant(s) MASAYA ET AL.	
	Examiner Sean Sprigg	Art Unit 3712	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/8/2003
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Page 2, lines 5-8 refer to the element of a supporting board that is respectively on the end of both arms of the U-shaped frame. It is unclear as to whether a single supporting board is provided or if there are actually two supporting boards, wherein one supporting board is placed on each of the ends of the arms of the U-shaped member. For the purposes of this examination, the latter interpretation will be used.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin'411 (USPN 4,798,411) in view of Chao'668 (USPN 5,697,668), and Dragusin'020 (US Pub. No. 2004/0254020).

Lin'411 teaches an apparatus which can be used as a simulated cockpit for playing video games comprising a seat assembly having a seat, a coupling tube extending under the seat, the coupling tube having a hole at a distal end of the tube which matches a lock element, and an attachable assembly having a mounting (or coupling) sleeve that corresponds to the coupling tube, wherein the mounting (or coupling) sleeve can be mounted on the coupling tube of the seat assembly in such a manner that the lock element passes through the threaded hole of the coupling tube to engage one of the plurality of positioning holes on the mounting (or coupling) sleeve, and a supporting tube extended upwardly that can be used to support a supporting board. Lin'411 also implicitly teaches that should there be two attachable assemblies, they would be interchangeable by easily disassembling and assembling the combination of the seat assembly and the either of the attachable assemblies. Lin'411 does not teach the holes on the coupling tube or the mounting (or coupling) sleeve of the attachable assembly being threaded, or there being two attachment assemblies. Lin'411 also does not teach the first assembly having a lock element on a foot rest assembly that is insertable in any of the positioning holes of the mounting sleeve, and having two supporting tubes being extended upwardly that can support two supporting boards for placing a steering wheel or game stick. Lin'411 also does not teach the second assembly having a U-shaped frame being extended in the direction of both sides from the center of the coupling sleeve, and having a supporting board being provided on the end of both arms of the U-shaped frame.

Chao'668 teaches an attachment means for connecting two assemblies with a bolt going through a threaded hole. Chao'668 teaches this feature to provide a more secure connection between the two assemblies than a simple pin being inserted in a hole. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the holes and lock element of Lin'411 with a threaded hole and a bolt of a lock element as taught in Chao'668 for the purposes of more securely attaching assemblies together and preventing a pin from simply sliding out of the holes.

Dragusin'020 teaches an integrated video gaming and computer workstation that includes a seat assembly, an assembly of multiple platforms, and an assembly with aircraft simulator controls. The assembly of multiple platforms includes one platform for supporting a steering wheel input device (see lead line 203) that is located on a distal end of one supporting structure (see lead lines 231) that extends from an upper (front) area of the mounting structure (see lead lines 220, 220', and 308), a second platform (see lead lines 209) for another user input device (see lead line 612) that is located on a distal end of a second supporting structure (see lead line 214) that extends from a lower (rear) area of the mounting structure, and a foot rest assembly attached to the mounting (coupling) structure (see lead lines 312 and 312'). Dragusin'020 also teaches that the footrests are designed to meet the needs of the user (see par. 134) and that it would therefore be desirable to have certain movement abilities. The assembly with aircraft simulator controls has a U-shaped frame (see lead lines 219, 219', and proximate lead line 249 forming a 'U' shape with the two arms and the shaft that connects the two arms through the mounting/coupling structure) being extended from the mounting (coupling)

structure (see lead lines 220, 220', and 308) on both sides and two supporting board structures on each of the arms of the U-shaped frame (see lead lines 217 and 217').

Dragusin'020 teaches these assemblies for the purpose of providing an apparatus that has all the desired functionality of a multiple video game peripheral devices and not requiring a separate structures with separate seat assemblies. It is noted that Dragusin'020 also explicitly teaches improving on Hill'663 (USPN 6,083,663) by providing multiple gaming peripherals, indicating that it would be desirable in the art to provide a single seating assembly with gaming peripheral attachments such as the ones taught in Dragusin'020.

Even though Dragusin'020 does not explicitly teach the solution of multiple attachable peripheral assemblies, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the assemblies found in Dragusin'020 as separate assemblies with different functions (a racing car cockpit assembly and a fighter aircraft cockpit assembly) that are attachable to a single seat assembly as described in Lin'411 and having a usable orientation of extending upwardly (as taught in Lin'411) for eliminating the need for multiple seat assemblies for each attachable assembly, and instead providing a single seat assembly with additional utility. It would have also been obvious to use the same adjustment structure provided by Lin'411 and Chao'668 (a set of holes on the mounting sleeve with a lock element) to modify the footrest structure of Lin'411 for the purposes as implied in Dragusin'020 of providing a comfortable and adjustable footrest structure.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Boyd'746 (USPN 5,195,746), Hill'663 (USPN 6,089,663), Larkin'910 (USPN 5,765,910), Hamann'475 (6,102,475), and Tholkes'657 (USPN 6,439,657).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean Sprigg whose telephone number is (571) 272-5562. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SMS
4/3/06


XUAN M. THAI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TC3700